



The Southeast News

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5

MARCH 1967

Jewish Seder In A Christian Church

In the March 1, 1964 issue of the UNITED CHURCH HERALD is the full account of a Jewish Seder Service held in the Bethel Church, St. Louis, Mo. Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman was the visiting Rabbi — leader of the service. Harold A. Schulz was the pastor there, but has since become the pastor of the St. John's Church, Cullman, Ala.

The Seder service is the colorful festival banquet, most singular feature of the Passover holiday, held in Jewish homes, as they remember with gratitude the deliverance of the Israelites out of Egypt.

The members of Bethel Church had before them at their tables the "Happy Passover" placemats, napkins, all the symbolic foods used in the Jewish home and "The Haggadah", the Passover ritual prayer book.

Directly in front of the Rabbi was a special Seder dish containing the egg (symbolic of life and the Passover free-will burnt offering); the shank bone (sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb); the moror (bitter herbs—horse-radish); parsley (symbol of spring); charoshes (nuts, apples, raisins, cinnamon and wine mixture, symbolizing clay used in building the pyramids in Egypt); Chazeret lettuce (signifying spring).

Also before the Rabbi were a plate containing three matzoth, each separated by a white napkin; a goblet of wine; a larger silver cup filled with wine which was the Cup of Elijah; a shallow dish of salt water (tears of the Israelites in slavery); The Haggadah and two candles on silver candlesticks.

The service began with praise and thanksgiving to God for the blessings of the week; for life, health and strength; for home, love and friend-



ship; for the discipline of our trials and temptations; for the happiness of our success and prosperity.

Then the memories of the past were recounted in which God was praised for the deliverance from Egypt and for choosing Israel to be in His service. As the people, led by the Rabbi, partook of the matzoth, reminiscent of the unleavened bread which the Israelites baked in haste in the heat of the sun as they fled from Egypt, the leader prayed: "Lo! This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat . . . May it be God's will to redeem us from all trouble and from all servitude . . . "

Four questions are asked by the youngest person at the festival meal:

1. Why is this night different from all other nights? Why, on this night,

(Continued on Page 4)

Rototiller Donated By Belvidere Church

On February 28, 1967, the Ala.-Tenn. Acting Association met with the Belvidere Church in Belvidere, Tenn. The pastor, Melvin Fenner, not only had his mind on hosting the Association, but also on getting the garden planted. The rototiller, a gift to him from members of the Belvidere Church, is all set to do the work.

The very earth, released from the cold and seeming death of winter, powerfully reinforces the great truth which Easter declares: the triumph of spirit over matter, of life over death, of God's creative and renewing love over the worst that human hate and blindness can do. Thus, Easter has become a day of great rejoicing throughout the whole Christian world.

The Easter story is found in Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 23:1-12.

Christ the Lord is risen today,
Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say,
Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.
Alleluia!

Lent — Easter

Just as the nativity story embodied so profound a truth that its celebration grew from a day to a season, so with Easter.

The earliest of Christian festivals, it began its impact upon the shape of the calendar by dominating the first day of the week, the Jewish Sabbath. The annual celebration of new life in Christ, then began to dominate and shape the wider season around it.

—From Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga

At The Board Of Directors Meeting

— W. J. Andes

Well attended! Full agenda! Delightful meal served by the ladies of Central Church, Atlanta, February 21, 1967!

Every Association was represented except the N. Alabama Association, and a telephone call explained their absence. The Board heard Rev. Edward Brueske of South Bend, Indiana, and Rev. John Mickle of Memphis, Tenn., explain the national budget of the United Church of Christ and our heartstrings were pulled hard to share in the ministry of Christ across the world. These two ministers visited us on behalf of the Budget Committee of the United Church.

One can't forget the careful presiding of the Moderator, Frederick Meyer. With a full agenda, he kept the business moving. Once through the discussion of finances and the proposed budget for the Conference, the sailing was easier. The Directors took a look at the Treasurer's report for 1966, showing a balance on hand of \$1,601.03, excluding restricted funds of \$5,137.66.

By the end of January, 1967, the Conference had to dip into the restricted funds to the amount of \$190.17 in order to pay what bills they had, and not all of them were paid. The Conference had to place a \$10,000 gift in a savings certificate in order to borrow money for a new parsonage in a new church project. So we could not dip into that in order to pay bills.

A third staff member for the Conference! How we need more help to cover the 129 churches in 7 states in the Southeast. The Division of Church Extension of the Board of Homeland Ministries lifted our drooping spirits by answering they would help by giving \$10,500 toward the office of such a person and another person reported \$600 pledged to this need. By the time salary, annuity, hospitalization, housing and travel are paid for a staff member, approximately \$12,000 is needed. This does not include additional secretarial help and additional office space. Can we do this? The Board of Directors thinks we can, and they

Annuity Fund For Ministers

This is a retirement fund to which churches and ministers pay. At retirement, the minister needs some money on which to live, buy or rent a home, and whatever is necessary at the time.

The Directors of the Annuity Fund have made some funds available to help some of our ministers enroll in this fund as well as share in the Health Insurance Program. We are grateful for their interest and concern.

Hospitalization For Ministers

The Board of Directors heard the report of the Commission on Church and Ministry recommending that our churches and ministers adopt the Health Insurance Program of the United Church of Christ. 75% of the ministers who are serving churches on a full-time basis will need to enroll before the program is effective. The proposed program will be sent to these churches and ministers in the near future so that they may make their decisions. Most of the Conferences across the land now have this policy or one similar to it for their ministers.

Location Of Southeast Conference Office

When the Central Church in Atlanta sells its present building and begins to build at their new location in Northeast Atlanta, the office of the Southeast Conference will have to find new headquarters. Several sites are being considered and a definite decision will be made later. The Board of Directors asked the committee working on this to be keeping in mind the cost and the accessibility of Conference members to the office.

"Just a trim," the teen-age boy told the barber. "You can even it up a little around the shoulders."

will so recommend to the Annual Conference in Birmingham, April 29-30, 1967.

Alabama-Mississippi Acting Association

This will be the 9th Association to hold its annual session and this meeting will be held in the First Church, Montgomery, Alabama, March 18, 1967. Rev. Harold D. Long is Moderator.

Get Well Soon!

Mrs. Wilmer L. McCord, secretary and bookkeeper for the Southeast Conference Office, has been hospitalized with a broken arm. She has now returned home, 253 - 14th St. N. E., Apt. 20, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. She has been greatly missed in the office, and her return to her desk and her duties is eagerly anticipated.

Mr. Leslie Beall, treasurer of the Southeast Conference, has been suffering from a back ailment. Recently, he underwent surgery, is recovering, and has returned home, 288 Mabry Rd., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30328. He has been greatly missed in meetings and elsewhere. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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to stir the imaginations
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How Much Are We Ready To Risk For Peace?

By Carey Andes

Last March, President Ben M. Herbster addressed the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in "the struggle for justice and peace." "There can be little question," he said, "about the fact that in these months ahead, to say nothing of the immediate years to come, the most crucial question . . . is that of a just and enduring peace . . . In an atomic age . . . we shall maintain nothing . . . If the church does not honor its own faith by witnessing with courage in the struggle for justice and peace, who will?"

Dr. Herbster made two points: (1) This is not a short term problem; it will probably take decades, but we must get on with it immediately. The point is that we should be ready to risk as much for peace as we are for war. (2) The job will never be done unless we do it in our congregations. The Council for Christian Social Action is responsible for our "Peace Priority Program" and will furnish materials and assist churches, but congregations must carry out programs. Dr. Alan F. Geyer has sent suggestions to pastors, from which we mention six:

(1) Make a world map of your involvements showing places where church members have connections in military service, students abroad, overseas missions, business and investments.

(2) Appoint a "United Nations Envoy" from your congregation responsible for providing information on the UN and world affairs in general and to attend a briefing at the UN.

(3) Hold a congregational retreat to explore the full range of opportunity and need for your church to become involved "in the struggle."

(4) Form a core fellowship of commitment and discipline based upon individual pledges of: political participation, prayer and Bible study, sacrificial giving to projects in developing nations, keeping steadily informed on foreign policy issues, and personal initiatives in inter-faith, interracial, and interna-

tional communication.

(5) Survey the world affairs coverage of local newspapers and radio and TV stations and try to improve such.

(6) Extend hospitality to foreign students and visitors.

This must be our whole church working together on a MISSION FOR PEACE. Each instrumentality must give priority to the peace program.

The idea of making peace possible seems to have been and continues to be uppermost in the minds of many people. The UNITED CHURCH HERALD for October devoted a great deal of space to the part our church and our country can play in helping to establish a just and enduring peace. An interesting article on "Possibilities for Peace," theme of the Youth Forum in San Francisco this past summer, brings these ideas: "Peace is the absence of conflict, a condition in which every person loves and understands every other person; the best way to work for peace is to help individuals understand each other."

According to Dr. Milan Opocensky, keynote speaker, "The basic cause of revolutionary tensions in the world is economic structure which allows a widening gap between rich and poor nations, not Communist strategy or ideology." "There can be no peace," he said, "without social justice. Jesus Christ is God's revolutionary power in the world, working to overcome every status quo and to make all things new."

Peace will not come by wishing, but we must all dedicate ourselves to the task. "Peace" has never been as exciting as "War," though Peace as a program of the church is not new. It is a program pursued by the church for

Greenbelt Community Church, in Greenbelt, Md., provides prospective members with a kit of printed and mimeographed materials about the church and the UCC preparation for membership and opportunities for service.

Audio-Visual Workshop

Sunday Church School teachers from Central and First Churches in Atlanta met at First Church, Houston & Courtland Streets, February 25, 1967, to participate in an Audio-Visual Workshop. The purpose was two-fold: 1. To acquaint teachers with the resources available in the Audio-Visual Kits of the United Church Curriculum. (2) To provide opportunity for participants to gain skill in operating projector and recording equipment.

Following an opening general session, the group divided into four smaller units. Nursery and Kindergarten teachers worked with the record Kindergarten Songs and Rhythms III; Primary teachers worked with Woofy puppet; Lower¹ Junior and Junior teachers viewed the sound filmstrip, "Why We Celebrate Holy Week;" Junior High Middle High, and Senior High teachers viewed the sound filmstrip, "The Council of Nicaea."

Following lunch, additional audio-visual resources were introduced, the Primary teachers brought "Woofy" to the session, and all participated in the closing worship service, "The Joy of Easter."

A follow-up session is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 1967.

many years, but like Christianity, we have not devoted ourselves to it. The importance of it seems hardly necessary to emphasize. The growing number of our young people in the Armed Forces, the ever increasing dislocation of our economy as we prepare for and participate in hostilities, the lengthening casualty lists, bitter disagreements among our citizens, screaming headlines make us realize that "It is peace which must guide the destinies of people of all mankind," as Pope Paul charged the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Enrollment at Southern Union College for the winter quarter totaled 366. This tops the 1965 winter quarter figures by 120 students. In comparison with students attending just five years ago, the present enrollment is indicative of an increase of 263 students.

The Story Of The Budget

The 1967 Budget of the Southeast Conference is carried in this issue of **The Southeast News** to help each of us see how our gifts are used. A budget tells a story. It is a story of negligence or a story of vision. Here we translate into figures our interest and our activities. Here we reveal our stewardship, not of one church, but of all of the churches.

The Southeast Conference operates on a 75-25 per cent division of funds coming from the churches. That is, we keep for our own use 75% of Our Christian World Mission funds to develop the life of our churches within the bounds of this Conference, approximately \$40,750. We hope to send approximately \$13,000 to the United Church of Christ Mission both in the United States and around the world. In a real sense, the Southeast Conference is a mission Conference and this makes the necessity of the 75%-25% division.

The Board for Homeland Ministries through its Division of Christian Education is making \$4,000 available to our Conference to help us have better Christian Education and Youth activities within our churches. What a joy it is to have Miss Emilie Pitcock going in and out among the churches.

The Board for Homeland Ministries through its Division of Church Extension is making available \$10,500 so that we might have a third staff member in the Conference, whose general area will be Church Extension. Church Extension can mean many things—new churches, helping already established churches to become stronger churches, undergirding our ministry and extending our areas of service to our fellowmen.

This Conference covers 7 states. Travel on the part of the staff and on the part of the Commission calls for a large expenditure of money. From Northwest Florida to Evarts, Ky., and from Charleston, S. C., to Tougaloo, Miss., will cost us more than \$9,000 if the entire staff travels much and if the necessary meetings are held.

The Conference has been fortunate to be able to have its offices in the Central Congregational Church, Atlanta. This church building is soon to be torn down and the Central Church

Southeast Conference

Budget For 1967

INCOME:

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION (from churches)	\$53,750.00
1. Bd. Homeland Ministries (for 2nd staff member) (Div. Christian Education)	4,000.00
2. Bd. Homeland Ministries (for 3rd staff member) (Div. Church Extension)	10,500.00
SEC Share Per Capita Dues	500.00
Interest, Savings Certificate	250.00
Fees from Annual Meeting	275.00
Refunds on Budgeted Items	500.00
Southeast News Subscriptions	500.00
Miscel. Unbudgeted Receipts	1,178.50
From Reserve Fund	2,768.50
Total Expected Income	\$74,222.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Administrative Expense:

a. Salaries	23,200.00
b. Annuity Program	2,849.00
c. Housing Allowance	5,400.00
d. Travel Allowance	7,900.00

United Church of Christ Mission to:

National and World Ministries (O. C. W. M. Funds)	13,000.00
Aid to Local Churches	10,500.00
Promotional Mts. & Expense	1,000.00
Southeast News	1,200.00

Other Expense:

Part-time Secretary	2,000.00
Rent	1,200.00
Utilities—telephone, etc.	600.00
Insurance — Contents	140.00
Insurance—Employee benefits (5)	533.00
Social Security	200.00
Stationery	500.00
Postage	500.00
Director's & committee meetings	2,000.00
Total — Other Expense	\$7,673.00
Unbudgeted Items	1,500.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$74,222.00

(Continued from Column 1)

will be moving to a new location. Instead of paying \$500 a year for rent, we will be paying at least \$1800 a year for rent, wherever we may locate.

The Conference has been able to get by with a secretary who also is book-keeper, receptionist, editor, and whatever job needs to be done, she does it. With the formation of the Conference the task has grown. We shall have to secure more help in the office. Our thanks to Mrs. Wilmer L. McCord, but we can't ask her to work seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, and still not get all the work done.

Can we be satisfied with giving \$13,000 to Our Christian World Mission outside of our Conference? The Board for World Ministries has more than 500 missionaries at work in many countries around the world and the Board for Homeland Ministries carries on a variety of missionary efforts in this country. Then there are: The Council for Church and Ministry, the Council for Christian Social Action, the Stewardship Council, the Office of Communication, the Pension Boards — all need our gifts.

If each member of each church gave slightly more than \$6.00 per year to OCWM, the entire budget of the Southeast Conference could be reached. Is this too much?

(Continued from Page 1)

do we eat only unleavened bread?

2. On all other nights, we eat all kinds of herbs. Why, on this night, do we eat especially bitter herbs?

3. On all other nights, we do not dip herbs in any condiment. Why, on this night, do we dip them in salt water and charoses?

4. On all other nights, we eat without special festivities. Why, on this night, do we hold this Seder service?

Then, the leader tells the story of the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt. Through symbol, song, prayer and participation, the people relived again the Exodus and received the lesson of faith in God.

As Christians gather on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week we would do well to remember that our Lord retired to an upper room to eat the Passover Seder with his disciples. The symbols of the Hebrew festival speak again to us in the service of Holy Communion.

(Continued to Column 3)

Aid To Local Churches

1967

NATIONAL PROJECTS:		NAT'L
Robbins Parish		\$4,000
No. Ala. Pastor-at-Large		900
JOINT PROJECTS		CONF.
Charleston, Circular	500	1,250
A. Aal. P-A-L	600	400
Huntsville, United	250	2,500
Montgomery, United	900	4,400
Nashville, Brookmeade	1,200	1,200
Nashville, Howard	600	1,250
Pleasant Hill, Comm.	500	500
Sweetwater, First	600	2,000
BONANZA	1,750	5,250
TRAVEL AID TO MINISTERS		
Rev. Homer Barnes		72
Rev. Richard M. Waugh		100
CONFERENCE PROJECTS		
Caddo, Cong'l Christian	100	
Brantley, Liberty	100	
Haleyville, Union Grove	150	
Columbus, First	600	
Roanoke, Sweet Home	300	
West Point, Bethel	600	
Student Summer Service	500	500
	9,422	24,150
MISCELLANEOUS		
TOTALS	10,500	24,150

Summer Plans For Christian Education

It is not too early to make plans for Vacation Bible School; electing a director, recruiting staff, and ordering teaching materials. Some excellent materials are available for summer ventures in Christian experience. Pastors have received a booklet, **Summer Resources for Christian Education, 1967**, containing descriptive materials for summer use in Sunday Church Schools, Vacation Church Schools, Camps and Conferences, Adult Education, and Leadership Education. Ask your pastor to see his copy, or write for the booklet to United Church Press, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

New Hope Church, Clio, Ala.

The New Hope Congregational (United Church of Christ) Church of Clio, Alabama, is located five miles South of Clio in a rural farming section, in a small frame building painted white.

Established approximately 1885, with land donated by William Teal, great-grandfather of many present members, the church is small in membership, but has good prospects for growth.

The church has been without a pastor for about one year, but services are being held with guest speakers. The Sunday School is most active, with a great increase in the last two months.

A house has been bought and moved beside the church, to be completed for a parsonage, with hopes that a minister will come soon full-time.



Minister's Widow Dies

Mrs. Martha Davenport, 78, of Daisy, Tenn., widow of Rev. James W. Davenport, died February 21, 1967. A member of Daisy Congregational Church she had lived in the Soddy-Daisy area for 41 years. The Rev. Mr. Davenport served as pastor of that church and other churches before his retirement.

Survivors are three sons: William Davenport of Nashville, Tenn., Paul Davenport of Red Bank, and the Rev. Harold Davenport, Council Bluffs, Iowa; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Daisy Church, with Revs. Arnold Slatner and Raymond Ashley officiating. Interment was in Hamilton Memorial Gardens.

S. Ala. - N. W. Fla.

Committees Meet

On Sunday, February 12, 1967, the committees of the S. Alabama and N. W. Florida Association met at the Blackwood Church near Headland, Ala. The fall Association meeting was discussed with the hope that the meeting would occur Saturday afternoon through Sunday noon. Several suggestions were made as to program: make it interesting, not just to Association members, have special music from different churches, and invite a speaker who would be conversant with our needs as Horace Sills was last fall. The suggestion was made that we should make a study of our denomination so that we might know who we are and what we stand for. This might be done at the Association and then later in churches.

The Church Extension Committee is to check with the Dorcas Church and determine the status of that church, reporting to the fall Association meeting. Mrs. Mary V. Faison was asked to serve as reporter for the Association, to secure news items for **The Southeast News**. Jim Courtney from Baker, and Mrs. Bernice Carter from Andalusia were asked to help her. Each church should send news items to these persons on a regular basis.

One of the main topics for discussion was the need of getting churches together into pastorates, either our own denomination or across denominational lines. Ministers are so few and the salaries are so low that we face a most difficult situation. It was suggested that the Blackwood Church was near to another of our churches as well as to a small Methodist Church. The New Hope Church is near to a church of another denomination that might unite in calling one minister.

The group discussed the need of starting a new church at Blue Springs, Alabama, where there is not a church, and yet many people are moving into the area.

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Atlanta Couple

Tour Puerto Rico

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bender of our Central Church, Atlanta, give this account of their recent tour:

Many of you may not know of the wonderful opportunities for travel, both in this country and abroad, which are provided by our United Church Tours. My husband and I decided to use our vacation time for a tour of Puerto Rico last November. We shall never forget this marvelous experience — a combination of travel, learning, and pleasure, with doors open all over the island to welcome us, and people everywhere anxious to help us understand their way of life and the mission of the church at work there.

We traveled the entire coastline of Puerto Rico by bus and visited every "nook and cranny," and flew also over to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands for a day of sightseeing and shopping.

I am amazed that we learned so much within the nine-day span of this tour. We heard fine, devoted ministers tell of the growth of their churches and their participation in Head Start. We met a group of businessmen who enthusiastically discussed the tremendous commercial developments now in progress on the islands. We learned the fascinating "inside story" of Ryder Hospital and began to appreciate what the twenty years of skillful, dedicated work by Dr. and Mrs. Smith have ac-

complished, combining the best medical care possible with Christian concern and compassion. We visited Yu-quiyu, a rural life center, becoming more a retreat center, where one has a very real feeling that the spirit of the church abides here.

We saw the old and new in striking contrast when we visited the Porta Coeli, a 16th Century building with a colorful history — onetime church, now museum of unique religious art. The same day we toured the Ionospheric Observatory of the Advanced Research Agency of the U. S. Dept. of Defense.

The Inter-American University, the Seminary and the University of Puerto Rico were interesting and we were entertained and enlightened.

For the sheer fun of it, we swam at Luquillo Beach, gathered shells at Las Croabas, took a boat ride to the fantastic Phosphorescent Bay in the dark of night, explored the awesome Fortress of San Felipe del Morro where Sir Francis Drake met defeat, hiked through the lush tropical beauty of El Yunque Rain Forest, beat time to the exuberant rhythms of the steel drum bands, speculated on the strange foods on display in the Farmers Market, and over and over again, stopped to admire the magnificent natural beauty of Puerto Rico.

I must also mention some things that "shook us up," namely: that almost half of the 33 buildings which the church has on the island are frame and have been seriously affected by the hordes of termites which thrive there; that, except for a new Nursing Home and Out Patient Dept., the main structure of Ryder was built fifty years ago, the labor-delivery room is regularly condemned by inspectors, and the doctors live in fear that "one day contagion will run wild through their corridors" because they have no adequate facilities for isolating contagious diseases; and that the average per capita income has gone up from \$200 to \$800 annually, but our pastors' salaries right now are \$250 per month and they hope

Open House At Langdale

A special open house at the Langdale Church parsonage was held on Sunday, February 26th, beginning at 3:00 p. m. and lasting through 6:00. This was an opportunity for the congregation and friends to drop in and see the recent additions and improvements that have been made to the church parsonage. The minister and family extended a special thanks to the trustees and contractors who did such a good job.

next year to be increased to \$275 per month!

The people of Puerto Rico, however, are not discouraged, but are just beginning to awaken to their own potential. Operation Bootstrap over the last ten years is working wonders.

Descriptions of Puerto Ricans as "happy, warm-hearted, generous and fun-loving" are borne out on every side. On the tour, warm welcomes and generous refreshments were offered us by our church people everywhere. The joyous singing of favorite hymns at Sunday service inspired us to join in gladly, even though not many of us were familiar with Spanish words. The easy friendliness of our guides and the obliging cooperation of our bus driver will always remain fond memories. We do not believe it would have been possible for us to have had such a rich experience on any but a United Church Tour.

For information about United Church Tours, write to: Dr. Nelson Dreier, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

JOTS AND FLASHES

A baby sitter is a teenager who comes in to act like an adult while the adults go out and act like teenagers.

* * * *

About the quickest way to discover a woman's faults is to praise her to her friends.

* * * *

Your money does go further these days. In fact, a lot of it winds up in outer space.

* * * *

Happiness is learning your daughter's boy friend has had his electric guitar repossessed.

Subscribe

to

The United Church Herald

LaForet Pastors' School 1967

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries again offers an opportunity to pastors for summer study and fellowship at the Laforet Pastors School near Colorado Springs, Colorado, from July 5 to 25, 1967.

Scholarship aid for ministers covers all tuition, room and board, plus limited travel expense beyond the first \$20, subject to certain conditions. Details are given in a prospectus of the school, available from the Conference office.

Offering courses will be Allen G. Wehrli, Eden Seminary, Emeritus; Nels S. Ferre, Theologian in residence, Parsons College; Russel J. Becker and Mrs. Portia Bowers, Yale Divinity School. Lectures will be given by Ralph Calder, International Congregational Union; Robbins Strong, United Church Board for World Ministries; S. Gary Oniki, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and others.

Special training in group sensitivity will be offered along with the courses in Biblical and theological subjects. Application forms may be secured from your Conference Minister, whose approval is required. General correspondence about the school may be addressed to: Rev. Purd E. Deitz, Dean, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10010.

GAY 90's

Dr. Fred Ensminger was honored on his 90th birthday celebration with a reception by the Congregational Christian Church at Sanford, Florida. This year also celebrates the 70th anniversary of his graduation (1897).

Ways To Paralyze Church

Cyrus N. Nelson tells us that here are sure ways to paralyze our church:

1. "We tried that before."
2. "We've never tried that before."
3. "We're too small for that kind of

Licensure Service For Two SE Conference Ministers

Chiles Bowersock and James Smalley were licensed to preach and teach by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ at a special service at Brookmeade United Church of Christ in Nashville on February 9th. Both young men expect to receive their B. D. degrees from Vanderbilt Divinity School in June, 1967, and look forward to ordination soon after that.

The candidates were examined by the Committee on Ministerial Standing of the Association with Dr. James Spicer of Oak Ridge as chairman and Dr. Wilson Welch of Fisk University, Dr. Oswald Schreg of Fisk University, Rev. Richard Mapes of Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Rev. John Anderson, pastor of the candidates.

Those taking part in the service were: Rev. William Winterbottom, moderator of the Association, Dr. Spicer, and Mr. Anderson. The examination and service were conducted by authorization of the Tennessee-Kentucky Association. The following churches were represented at the service: Brookmeade, Crossville, Fisk Union, Oak Ridge, Pleasant Hill, and Sweetwater.

At the examination, Mr. Bowersock and Mr. Smalley presented statements of theology and understanding of the church and ministry, and answered questions put to them by the committee. During the service of Licensure, they presented their understanding of the nature of their ministry as they hope it might be carried out.

E. Alabama Churchmen's Fellowship Has Ladies' Night

The East Alabama Churchmen's Fellowship had a very successful Ladies' Night Feb. 25 with about 110 people present, at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala. The college choir brought music, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave brought

thing."

4. "We can't afford it."
5. "It won't work here."

Report From South Montgomery Church

By John L. Martin, Minister

The United Church of South Montgomery is more and more coming to understand its mission as one to that group of people who stand on the periphery of the church's life, and for various reasons refuse to participate in the normal city or suburban church. We are trying to minister to these people in developing a program that we feel will appeal to them. Each month, we have a discussion that we call "Dialogue with the World," in which we use various art forms and other secular means of communication to approach the meaning of the church and its thought in our day. We have people attending these meetings who have not attended church for a long time. We feel we are making an impression in this area.

In keeping with this approach, my own ministry is more and more being confined to small groups. Here I am meeting a variety of people. Our church sponsors a free-swinging discussion group that meets every other week at various places. This is an inter-racial and inter-faith group that will tackle anything from the parables of Jesus to the war in Vietnam. Possibilities of ministry here are infinite and several are interested in our church.

Each week on Wednesday afternoon, I go to Maxwell Air Force Base and meet with a group from our church to discuss lessons from the scriptures for the next Sunday.

A local Episcopal minister and I have started a COCU group, and this will also be an integrated group.

These meetings are not meeting for meetings' sake. Each has been very carefully planned to give maximum effectiveness and meaning to those involved. I could not possibly hope to see all these people on such a regular basis in any other way. Our church is small, but it is being felt and next year we will be an even stronger force.

a special message, followed by a short business meeting. It was good to be there.

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Annual Meeting Of The SE Conference

Plans for the annual meeting to be held in Pilgrim Church in Birmingham, Ala., April 29 and 30, 1967, are moving ahead. The theme of the Conference will be "Communicating the Gospel."

The cost per person will be \$5.00 for registration and one meal. The two meals will be lunch and dinner on Saturday, April 29, at the church. Sunday lunch will not be served by the church, for the Conference closes with the service of worship with Holy Communion on Sunday morning. Information regarding motels and directions to the location of the church will be sent to the churches later.

Committees for the Conference:

PROGRAM—F. A. Meyer, S. L. Johnson, Dora Brackin, R. J. Chetelat, H. C. McEwen

HOSPITALITY—Host Church, R. J. Chetelat, Chairman

PUBLICITY — S. L. Johnson and the Conference Office

CREDENTIALS — Hubert Richter, G. C. Hewson, Guy Colbert, H. D. Long, J. H. Dollar

PLACE — Hubert Richter, Mrs. Edward Askren, G. F. Lewis, Mrs. Emmett Bailey

RESOLUTIONS — John Martin, Annie Campbell, David Beebe, Harold Long

NOMINATING — Rufus Obrecht, W. W. Hall, John Enwright, Marguerite Davison, George Hewson

The Conference opens with a speaker, and discussion to follow, alerting us to what this Gospel is we wish to communicate. On Saturday afternoon, the question will be asked, "How Can We Communicate the Gospel?" if we are constantly losing churches and church members, if we are closing our hearts to the needs of the world and if we face inward to satisfaction of

Small Churches Take Note

Southeast Conference Christian Education leaders will be especially interested in the April 1967 issue of **Church School Worker**, featuring several articles on Christian Education in smaller churches. Of particular interest is an article by W. Raymond and Shirley Berry, entitled, "Utilization of Space and Equipment in the Small Church School." For several years, Raymond and Shirley have served churches of our Conference, the most recent being the United Church of Huntsville. Practical suggestions are given for the use and equipment of churches having very few rooms. Other articles are entitled, "Youth Ministry and the Small Church," "Advantages and Disadvantages of a Small Church School," "Where Two or Three Are Gathered," "What Is a Small Church School?", "The Small Church — Its Opportunities for Education," "New Tools for Vacation Church Schools" "Church School Day," and "Key Emphases in the Book of Acts." Be sure to read your copy of the April **Church School Worker**.

self all of the time. Discussion groups, led by the chairmen of the Commissions, will be asked to come up with definite steps to be taken to reverse the trend.

One of our guest speakers will be Dr. J. E. Danieley, president of Elon College, N. C. Dr. Danieley will be the speaker for the Installation Service for the staff to be held on Saturday night, April 29, and also for the worship service with Holy Communion at 11 a. m. Sunday. Dr. Danieley was the first national chairman of the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ.

Another highlight of the Conference will be the music of the 80-voice Indian Springs choir at the Sunday morning service of worship. This is one of the best boys' choirs in the country, according to Rev. S. L. Johnson, pastor of the Pilgrim Church.

Ministers and delegates are supposed to attend the Conference. The Conference welcomes others also.

Central Ala. Association Has Committee Meetings

The committees of the Central Alabama Association met at the Riverview Restaurant in Wetumpka, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1967. Rev. John L. Martin led the prayer of thanksgiving for the meal and the invocation for the meeting. Mr. Freddie Powell, past moderator, gave an informative talk on the Association.

The Conference Minister, W. J. Andes, discussed the number of churches in the Southeast Conference, showing that the number of churches had dropped from 145 in 1961 to 129 in 1965, and that the membership in the churches had dropped from approximately 12,900 to 11,400. The OCWM giving had dropped from approximately \$73,000 to \$56,000 in that same time.

Then, each church in the Central Association was studied as to membership, OCWM giving, and other giving. Three churches showed an increase in membership during the past 15 years, while four churches reported losses.

John Martin and Freddie Powell suggested ways that the churches in Central Association might develop some publicity in the newspapers. This would help identify the United Church of Christ in the area.

The Church Extension Committee is going to check into the deed and the prospects of the Union Church in Eclectic. A discussion followed on yoking several churches into a parish in order to develop a real church program and have ministerial services. The cost of a full-time ministry was discussed.

It was noted that if the churches or part-time ministers needed the services of John L. Martin and James T. McAdams is visiting the sick in the hospital in Montgomery, they would be glad to serve.

The ministers and churches were encouraged to present the needs of our church around the world.